R E M A R K S

In the present Office Action, claims 1-19 were pending before
the Office. Of these, claims 1, 11, 16, and 18 were the only
independent claims. The Office Action rejected claims 1-19.
Claims 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102. Claims 1-15
were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claim 11 has been amended to improve its idiomatic English
form. Applicants submit that the amendment to claim 11
relates solely to a matter of form. No new matter has been
added. No claims have been added, cancelled, or withdrawn.

A.   CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being
anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,414,701 to Shtayer et al.
[hereinafter Shtayer].

Independent claim 16 continues to recite, inter alia,
accessing one of a plurality of entries stored in a first on-
chip memory using the first index.

Independent claim 18 continues to recite, inter alia, a first
on-chip memory having a plurality of entries.

Applicants continue to submit that Shtayer does not teach at
least the aforementioned features, for at least the following
reasons.

Applicant acknowledge the presence of the notation "internal"
in FIGS. 2, 3, and 5 of Shtayer Applicants also acknowledge
that anticipatory teaching may come from patent drawings.
Nonetheless, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office's
interpretation of this patent is incorrect because it is
contrary to how one of ordinary skill in the art would
interpret the notation "internal."

Firstly, a review of the Office Action and FIGS. 2, 3, and 5 of Shtayer reveals that the sole basis for the Office's interpretation is the presence of the notation "internal." Nonetheless, the Office's interpretation of this notation as indicating that the link table is on-chip is contrary to the disclosures of Shtayer as a whole, as is explained below. Illustrative of this point is the absence of any identification of any portion of Shtayer that connects the notation "internal" with a location of the link table. For this reason, it would even be legal error to rely on inherency to support the Office's contention.

Secondly, when taken in context with the written description of Shtayer, the presence of the notation "internal" does not indicate a location of the link table. Rather, the notation "internal" indicates that there are 16 entries in the link table itself. This is how one of ordinary skill would interpret this art. Indeed, a review of the portions of Shtayer describing these figures buttresses this conclusion. In describing FIG. 2, for example, Shtayer teaches "FIG. 2 illustrates a link table which has sixteen entries …." Shtayer, Col. 4, lines 42-43.

Stated another way, the Office's interpretation of Shtayer is incorrect because it is at best unsupported and actually contradicts the teachings of that patent as a whole, which teachings provide an accurate meaning of the notation "internal."

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

B.   CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 5-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Shtayer in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,356,552 to Foglar [hereinafter Foglar].

Independent claim 1 continues to recite, inter alia, employing the first address to access a first memory and to obtain a first entry from the first memory, the first entry specifying… a number of bits of the virtual path identifier to use in the control block index….

Independent claim 11 recites similar features in apparatus form.

Applicants submit that the asserted combination fails to disclose at least the aforementioned claim features, for at least the following reasons.

The Office Action continues to concede that the alleged first entry does not specify a number of bits of the port number to use in the control block index. Office Action, page 6. The Office Action nonetheless rejects these claims contending that Foglar provides the necessary disclosure of these features. This contention is respectfully traversed.

Foglar relates to a method by which sets of values representing various parameters can be allocated to addresses and discusses generating logical channel identifier (LCI) from portions of the following three parameters:

(i) a virtual path identifier (VPI);

(ii) a virtual channel identifier (VCI; and

(iii) a physical port number (PN).

Specifically, the PN value is shortened to P bits, which is the number of lines or termination units with which an ATM unit is connected. Foglar, Col. 7, lines 15-38.

In view of these express teachings, the P bits to which Foglar refers is, at best, arguably a number of ports. Indeed, the Office Action itself expressly describes P as "clearly the number of ports used in the creation of the LCI." Office Action, page 3.

In contrast, the aforementioned features of claims 1 and 11 recite "a number of bits of a port number." This cannot reasonably be said to be the same as a number of ports used to do something.

Stated another way, a number of ports used (Foglar) is not the same as a number of bits of a port number, which need not be the same as the number of ports.

Thus, Foglar cannot remedy the acknowledged deficiency of Shtayer.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

Lastly, regarding the rejection of claim 4, U.S. Patent No. 6,272,504 to Baentsch was applied against claim 4 only. Applicants submit that this patent does not remedy the aforementioned deficiency in the combination of Shtayer and Foglar.
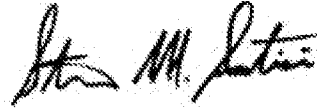
C.   CONCLUSION

Since Applicants assert that all the independent claims as amended are in condition for allowance and all remaining claims properly depend from the independent claims, Applicants assert that all claims are allowable.

Applicants do not believe a Request for Extension of Time is required but if it is, please accept this paragraph as a

Request for Extension of Time and authorization to charge the requisite extension fee to Deposit Account No. 09-0465. Applicants do not believe any additional fees are due regarding this Amendment. However, if any additional fees are required, please charge Deposit Account No. 09-0465.

                                   Respectfully Submitted,

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